10

15

20

25

- 1. A method of converting an internet international domain name to an RFC1035 compliant format, where the international domain name includes non-English characters which are RFC1035 non-compliant, the method comprising:
- 5 intercepting the international domain name;

transforming the international domain name to an RFC1035 compliant domain name; and

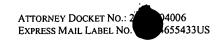
automatically appending the redirector string to the RFC1035 compliant domain name where the redirector string directs resolution of the RFC1035 compliant domain name to a domain name server.

- 2. The method of converting as set forth in claim 1 further including automatically generating the redirector string based on the RFC1035 compliant domain name.
- 3. The method of converting as set forth in claim 1 further including automatically generating the redirector string based on a predetermined top level domain string.
- 4. The method of converting as set forth in claim 1 wherein the intercepting is transparent to a user.
- 5. The method of converting as set forth in claim 1 further including obtaining the international domain name on a user system and, the intercepting occurring at a network layer in the user system.
 - 6. The method of converting as set forth in claim 5 wherein the intercepting occurs in a Windows socket layer.

15

20

25





- 7. The method of converting as set forth in claim 6 wherein if the Windows socket layer includes a name space provider that performs the intercepting and transforming.
- 5 8. The method of converting as set forth in claim 1 further including, after the intercepting, converting the international domain name to a UNICODE string if the international domain name is not in a UNICODE format, and wherein the transforming includes transforming the UNICODE string to the RFC1035 compliant domain name.
- 9. A method for enabling a user device to be connected to an Internet address where a domain name request originates in a non-compliant format, comprising the steps of:

transforming the non-compliant domain name request to a converted domain name in a compliant format, the transforming being transparent to a user; and

automatically appending a redirector string to said transformed compliant domain name which includes information for directing the compliant domain name to a domain name server that resolves the compliant domain name such that the user device is connected to an Internet address corresponding to the compliant domain name.

- 10. The method for enabling as set forth in claim 9 further including automatically generating the redirector string based on the compliant domain.
- 11. The method of claim 9 further including automatically generating the redirector string based on a predetermined top level domain.
- 12. The method of claim 9 wherein said step of appending said redirector string to said compliant domain name produces a fully qualified domain name.
- 13. The method of claim 9 wherein said transforming step comprises the step of converting the non-compliant domain name to a UNICODE string.

15

20

5

14. A software program for enabling a user device to be connected to the Internet wherein domain name requests in the user device are obtained having a non-compliant format; said program comprising:

instructions for transforming a non-compliant domain name request to a compliant domain name request; and

instructions for automatically appending a redirector string to the compliant domain name request which includes information for directing the compliant domain name request to a domain name server.

- 15. The software program as set forth in claim 14 further including instructions for automatically generating the redirector string based on the compliant domain name request.
 - 16. The software program as set forth in claim 14 further including instructions for automatically generating the redirector string based on a predetermined string.
 - 17. The software program as set forth in claim 14 further including instructions for modifying a domain name resolving process in the user device, where the modified domain name resolving process transforms the non-compliant domain name request to a compliant format.

